

Telemarketing calls detract and degrade the primary purpose of the telephone: communication. They are simply using up phone lines to sell you something.

I am receiving more and more telemarketing calls everyday, usually 5 to 10 per day. I worry that phone lines will become less of a communication tool and more of a commercial tool. We try to screen calls, but telemarketers get you eventually. Letting the answering machine take all calls puts a burden on our friends and family, and slows critical communication should there be an emergency. When will telemarketers get my cell phone number? Will I have to start screening those calls as well?

Hangups are a problem too. My kids answer and the telemarketer hangs up, again and again. I worry that there's a predator at the end of the line, trying to figure out if my kids are alone.

Telemarketers expect you to make a knee-jerk decision on purchasing products or donating money. Frankly, I don't make any purchases that way.

I would support a national do-not-call list where I can choose who gets my phone number. I would even support having tax-exempt organizations subject to these rules. Most charitable organizations I support send me written information that I can consider when I want to, not at dinner time.

I am not impressed with the phone companies, either. They are only too happy to make money from telemarketers and screening devices, then sit back and watch the problem escalate.